

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising providing the circuit designer with feedback concerning the physical characteristic of the circuit being designed in response to the circuit designer requesting feedback.

18. An estimation process for designing a semiconductor device comprising:

a parameter file maintenance process for maintaining a circuit design parameter file for a circuit being designed, the circuit design parameter file specifying a physical characteristic of said circuit;

a design space monitoring process for monitoring a design environment to detect the addition of a circuitry component to said circuit;

a component file access process for accessing a component design parameter file that specifies at least one design parameter for said added circuitry component;

a parameter file updating process for updating said circuit design parameter file based on said at least one design parameter included in said component design parameter file; and

a feedback display process for providing the circuit designer with feedback concerning said physical characteristic of said circuit being designed.

~~21. The process of claim 20 further comprising a feedback display process for providing the circuit designer with feedback concerning said physical characteristic of said circuit being designed in response to the circuit designer requesting feedback.~~

35. A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a processor, cause that processor to:

maintain a circuit design parameter file for a circuit being designed by a circuit designer, wherein the circuit design parameter file specifies a physical characteristic of the circuit;

monitor a design environment to detect the addition of a circuitry component to the circuit;

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cont'd
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access a component design parameter file that specifies at least one design parameter for that added circuitry component;
update the circuit design parameter file based on the at least one design parameter included in the component design parameter file; and
provide the circuit designer with feedback concerning the physical characteristic of the circuit being designed.

36 37. A processor and memory configured to:

maintain a circuit design parameter file for a circuit being designed by a circuit designer, wherein the circuit design parameter file specifies a physical characteristic of the circuit;

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monitor a design environment to detect the addition of a circuitry component to the circuit;

access a component design parameter file that specifies at least one design parameter for that added circuitry component;

update the circuit design parameter file based on the at least one design parameter included in the component design parameter file; and

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provide the circuit designer with feedback concerning the physical characteristic of the circuit being designed.

In the abstract:

Please replace the abstract with the following version.

A⁷
A circuit design parameter file is maintained for a circuit being designed by a circuit designer. This circuit design parameter file specifies a physical characteristic of the circuit. A design environment is monitored to detect the addition of a circuitry component to the circuit and a component design parameter file that specifies at least one design parameter for that added circuitry component is accessed. The circuit design parameter file is updated based on the design parameter(s) included in the component design parameter file. The circuit designer is provided with feedback concerning the physical characteristic of the circuit being designed.